

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/601,168	IKEDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Fred Tzeng	Art Unit 2651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/6/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2, 5-7, 10-13, 16 which are now renumbered as 1-9.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____:

1. This office action is in responsive to the amendment filed on October 06, 2005.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney, Mr. Patrick Duncan, on December 21, 2005.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 2. (Amended) A magnetic data storage device comprising: a disk-like recording medium having pitch information indicating a track pitch recorded in a predetermined area in a servo area, wherein the pitch information is written by a head consistent with the characteristics of the head; and [a] the head for scanning the recording medium to read the pitch information, and reading/writing data from/in the recording medium by being subjected to seeking control based on the pitch information, wherein the recording medium has, in an area other than a data area, the pitch information recorded in a position to be scanned by the head without fail after power is turned on.

Claim 5. (Amended) A magnetic storage device comprising: a disk-like recording medium; and a head for scanning a data area of the recording medium to read/write data, wherein the head writes a servo pattern in the recording medium, and information regarding a track pitch in a predetermined position in the servo pattern other than the data area, wherein the information regarding the track pitch is consistent with the characteristics of the head.

Claim 10. (Amended) A disk-like magnetic recording medium of a data storage device in which a head scans a data track of the recording medium to read/write

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data, comprising: a data area including a data track provided by a track pitch consistent with characteristics of the head, and a pitch information recording area having information regarding the track pitch recorded, wherein the information regarding the track pitch is recorded in a servo pattern written in the pitch information recording area by the head.

Claim 11. (Amended) A servo writing method for writing a servo pattern in a disk-like magnetic recording medium, comprising: the steps of: writing a servo pattern in the disk; and writing, in an area other a data area for recording data, information indicating a track pitch in a position to be scanned by a head without fail after power is turned on for a data storage device [.], wherein the information indicating a track pitch is consistent with characteristics of the head.

Claim 16. (Amended) A data reading/writing method of a magnetic data storage device for scanning a data track of a magnetic recording medium by a head to read/write data, comprising the steps of: reading pitch information indicating a track pitch recorded in a predetermined area of the recording medium by the head; executing seeking by control based on the read pitch information; and reading/writing data from/in a predetermined track of the recording medium which is seeking destination, wherein in the step of reading the pitch information, the pitch information recorded in a servo pattern written in an area other than a data area of the recording medium is read [.]; and the pitch information is recorded by the head with consistency to the characteristics of the head.

Reason for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2, 5-7, 10-13 and 16 which are now renumbered as 1-9 are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests that writing the pitch information for indicating a track pitch in a servo area other than a data area on a disk medium.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Fred Tzeng whose telephone number is 571-272-7565. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 571-273-7565 for After Final communications.

8. Informal regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (**PAIR**) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FIT

Fred F. Tzeng

December 22, 2005


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600